

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

50X1

COUNTRY

USSR

DATE DISTR. 24 Sept 1954

SUBJECT

Status of Religion in the USSR

NO. OF PAGES 1

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES, WITHIN THE MEANING OF TITLE 18, SECTIONS 793 AND 794, OF THE U.S. CODE, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS TO OR RECEIPT BY AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. THE REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

50X1

1. A great many young people can be seen in church today in the Soviet Union. This is more true in the countryside than in larger cities. [redacted] the increase of religious interest is due to the difficult times. People seek an escape from everyday reality. Few people are interested in Marxism as a philosophy. This results in a situation where most people are leading a double life intellectually. They are given a number of Marxist myths which they learn by rote so that they can repeat them. However, these myths have nothing in common with every day reality which they must live with. So they must adapt themselves to the problem of struggling for everyday existence with one compartment of their mind while playing along with the Marxist myths in another compartment.
2. While in one sense the church as a whole is under State control, the majority of individual priests do not work for the State. Their salaries are paid by the church which in turn is supported by contributions of church members. [redacted]

-END-

CLASSIFICATION

SECRET

DISTRIBUTION

State-EV